

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer ribbed surface non-helically positioned about a central axis, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley each extending about said outer ribbed surface on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis;

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner ribbed surface complementary to said peaks and valleys of said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, and an outer surface positioned about a central axis;

said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member being constructed and arranged for coaxial alignment and overlapping engagement with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, said compression ring member linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said outer

ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member which is adapted to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface and wherein said release position results in said peaks of said collet member being disposed in said valleys of said compression ring for expansion of said collet member which is thereby adapted to release an outer gripping surface of a shank member.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said shank member includes a first end and a second end.

Claim 3. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said ribbed outer surface of said collet member includes at least one outwardly and circumferentially extending rib, each said rib including a first ramp surface to facilitate coaxially aligned linear overlapping movement of said compression ring in relation to said collet member for engagement thereof, and a second ramp surface to facilitate linear removal of said compression ring from said collet member.

Claim 4. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface of said collet member is constructed and arranged with a conjugate shape in relation to said outer gripping surface of said shank member.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The precise linear fastener of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface of said collet member is constructed and arranged with internal threads.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said first end of said shank member includes a tensioning means, said tensioning means being constructed and arranged to allow said shank member to be tensilely loaded prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 10 wherein said shank member tensioning means includes at least one internal bore extending inwardly from said first end of said shank member along the longitudinal centerline of said shank member, wherein said at least one internal bore is constructed and arranged for gripping and placing a tensile load on said shank member prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer ribbed surface positioned about a central axis, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley, each of said at least one peak and said at least one valley constructed and arranged to extend non-helically around said outer ribbed surface on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis; and

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner ribbed surface having at least one radially inwardly extending rib, and an outer surface positioned about a central axis;

said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member being constructed and arranged for coaxial alignment and overlapping engagement with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, said compression ring member linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface whereby said collet member is clamped to the shank member, and wherein said release position results in expansion of said collet member thereby releasing the outer gripping surface of the shank member;

wherein said first end of said shank member includes a tensioning means, said tensioning means being constructed and arranged to allow said shank member to be tensilely loaded prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member;

wherein said shank member tensioning means includes at least one internal bore extending inwardly from said first end of said shank member along the longitudinal centerline of said shank member, wherein said at least one internal bore is constructed and arranged for gripping and placing a tensile load on said shank member prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member; and

wherein said internal bore includes internal threads.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 where said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member are constructed and arranged to maintain an axially aligned interfitting relationship in said release position.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of plastic.

Claim 20. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of copper.

Claim 21. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of brass.

Claim 22. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of bronze.

Claim 23. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of aluminum.

Claim 24. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of steel.

Claim 25. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of rubber.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A linear fastener system, comprising:

a collet member including an outer ribbed surface, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley, each of said at least one peak and said at least one valley constructed and arranged to extend non-helically around said outer ribbed surface on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis, and an inner surface adapted to grip a corresponding surface of a shank in a locked condition of said fastener system; and

a compression ring including an inner ribbed surface defining peaks and valleys corresponding to said peaks and valleys of said collet member;

the linear fastener system having a locked condition wherein said peaks of said collet member and said peaks of said compression ring are in confronting alignment, and an unlocked condition wherein said peaks of said collet member are disposed in said valley of said compression ring, whereby said collet member is adapted to grip a shank in said locked condition without rotating said collet member.